

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00848 200851 Z

20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 EA-11 NEA-10 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-12 /150 W

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R 181111 Z APR 73 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6417

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 0848

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, SU

SUBJ: SUDAN COTTON PRODUCTION/ MARKETING

REF: KHARTOUM 777

1. GOS APRIL 17 ANNOUNCED RESUMPTION OF COTTON SALES WITH PRICES INCREASED FURTHER 10 PERCENT TO LEVEL NOW 23 PERCENT ABOVE STARTING PRICES LAST SEASON. WHILE FINAL PRODUCTION FIGURES STILL NOT AVAILABLE, COTTON AUTHORITIES NOW ESTIMATE BETWEEN 300/350 THOUSANDS BALES AVAILABLE FOR SALE. THIS TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION SALES OF 165,000 BALES MADE PRIOR TO SUSPENSION (REFTEL) AND 300,000 AND 200,000 BALES COMMITTED RESPECTIVELY TO INDIA AND PRC. TOTAL ESTIMATED SALES IN VICINTY ONE MILLION BALES, WELL ABOVE LATEST ESTIMATED PRODUCTION, INCLUDES SUBSTANTIAL DRAW DOWN ON CARRYOVER FROM LAST SEASON ESTIMATED AT 280,000 BALES. ON OTHER HAND, GOS AUTHORITIES REPORT THAT DEMAND FOR SUDANESE COTTON ALREADY AT LEVEL OF 1.3 MILLION BALES, SOME 300,000 BALES ABOVE PROJECTED SALES. THESE FIGURES MAKE EVEN MORE GRAPHIC UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES OF POOR PRODUCTION YEAR.

FRITTS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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